MARVEL COMICS

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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

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Great games! Splendid stories!

Hello, everybody!

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Island of Sodor Railway

This comic belongs to

.....

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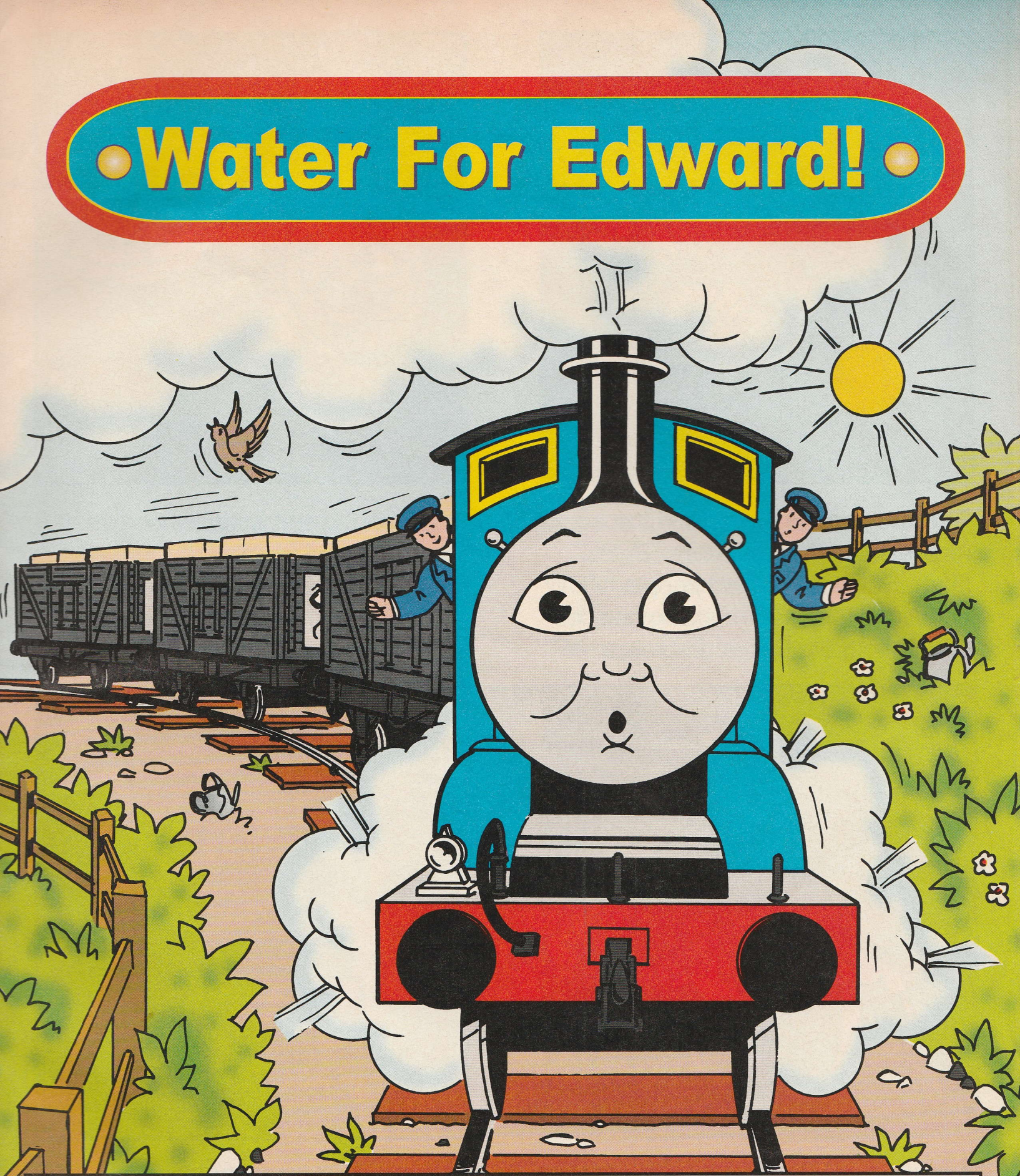
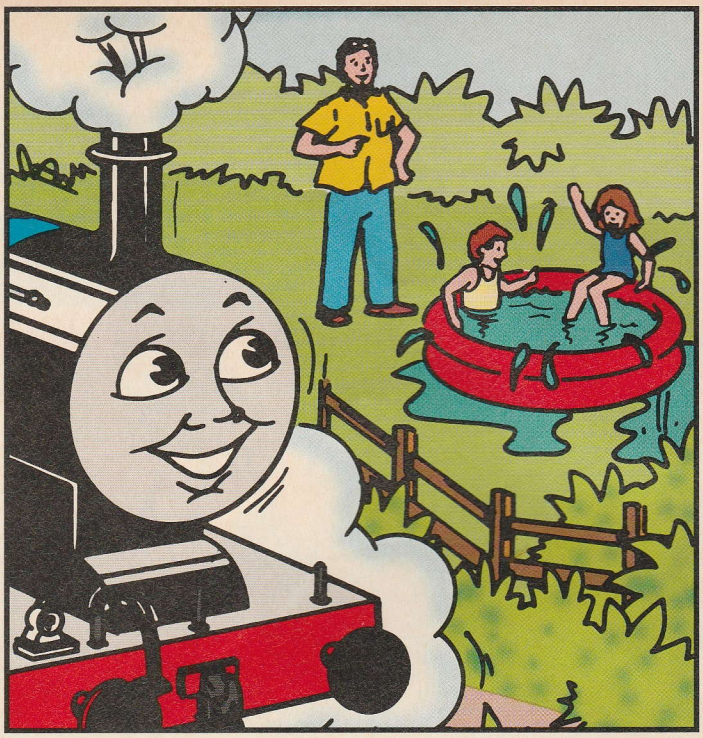
Water For Edward!



1. Thomas and his friends could not remember the weather ever being so hot. The scorching sun beat down from a cloudless sky as they busily pulled passenger and freight trains.

2. The engines huffed and puffed to and fro over the sizzling rails. They even worried that their boilers would overheat. But no one felt hotter than Edward on the coast line.

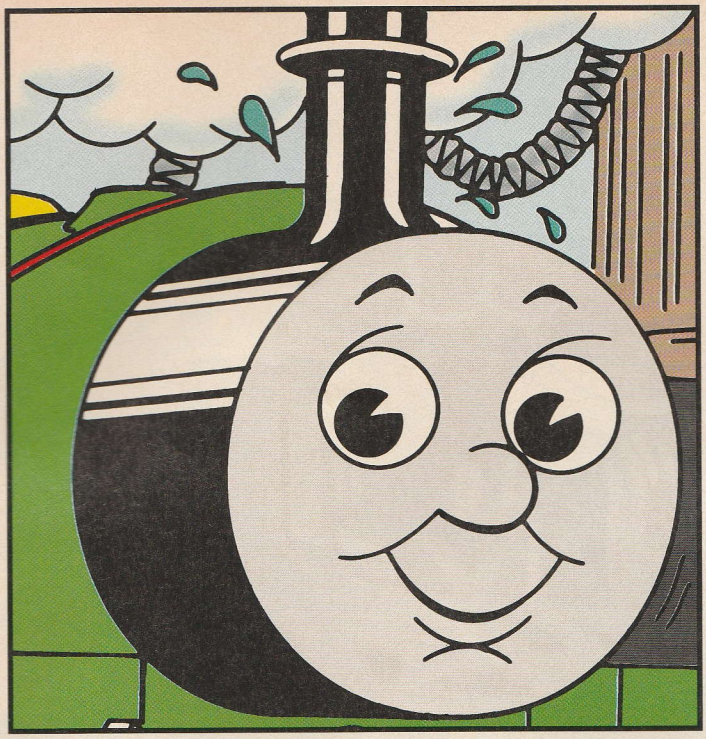
3. There was no shade and the track ran beside sun-baked cliffs. Below them, Edward watched people paddling in the sea or sitting near it underneath big beach umbrellas.



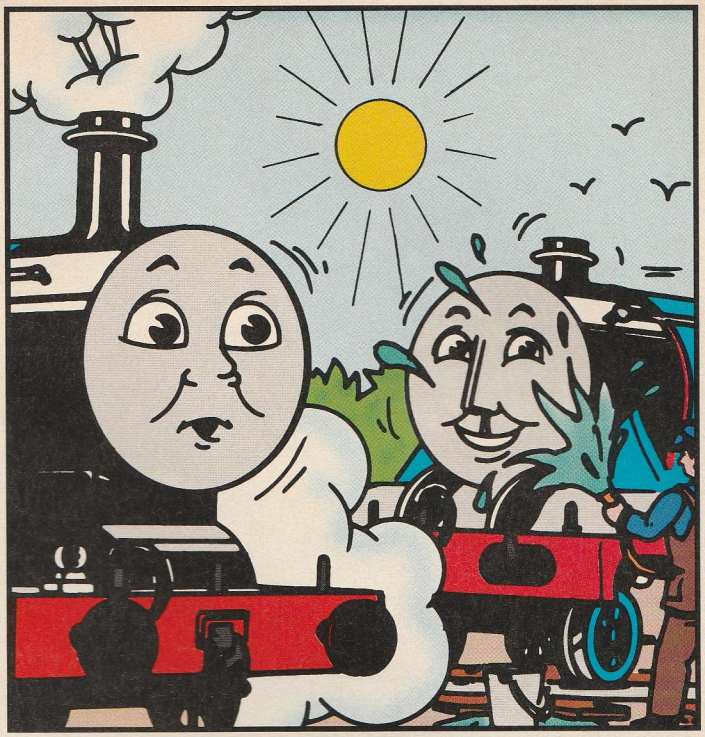
4. "I wish the sea would wash over my wheels to cool me down!" moaned Edward. Shortly, he steamed past some houses. In the gardens, children splashed about in paddling pools.

5. Others were running happily under a hose while their father sprinkled a fine spray from it all over them. "More water!" gasped Edward. "Everyone else is keeping cool, except me!"

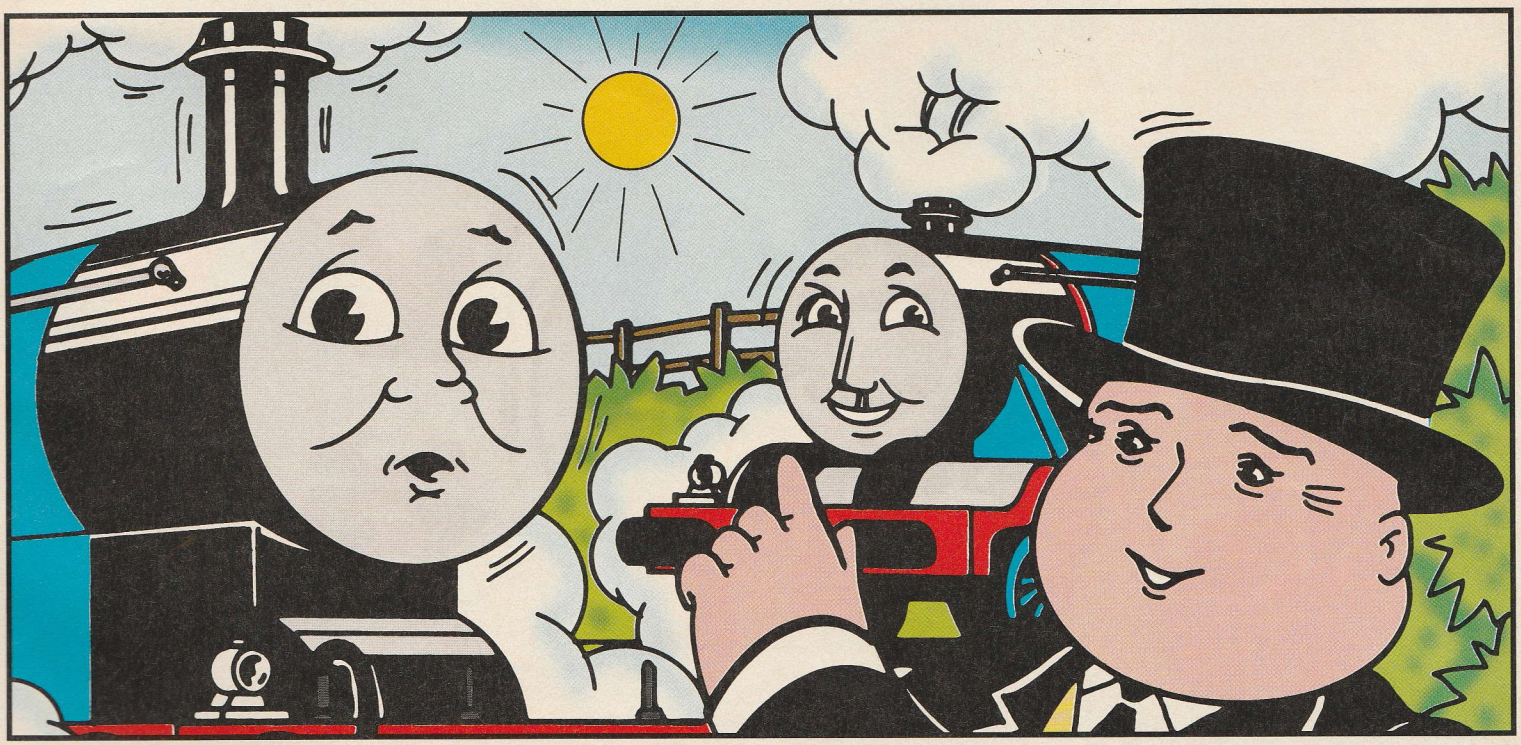
6. Later, at the Main Station, Edward was gasping for a drink. But he had to wait behind Thomas and Percy at the water tower. "Hurry up!" called Edward. "Leave some water for me!"



7. "Too late!" teased Percy. "I've had the last drop!" For a moment, Edward looked so hot and bothered the others thought he would burst his boiler. "Just joking!" added Percy.



8. Nearby, Gordon was being washed before pulling the afternoon express. Workmen splashed water all over him. "Lucky Gordon," thought Edward. "Perhaps it will be my turn next."

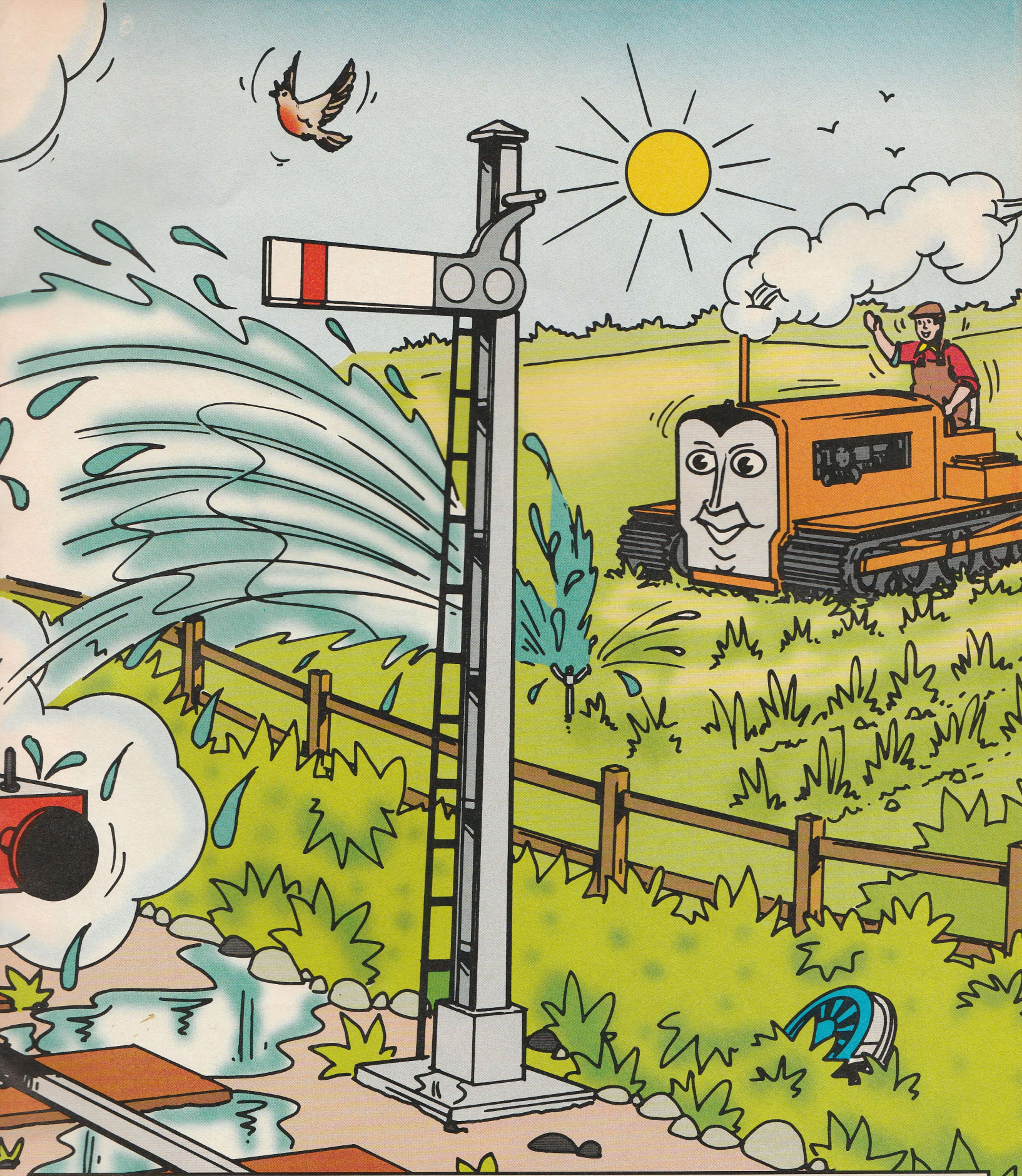


9. Edward did not expect to take another train for at least an hour. So he thought he had time to cool down. But the Fat Controller asked Edward to pull an urgent works train.

10. "The heat has buckled a rail on a country line," he told Edward. "I need you to carry workmen there to replace it." Edward was not very pleased. "I wanted a wash!" he said.

11. “Sorry, Edward,” replied the Fat Controller. Soon, Edward set off through the countryside. “Even the crops in the fields are being sprayed with water,” he grumbled.

12. The spinklers swished from side to side. But one was too near the track. Edward had to pull up and wait at a signal, close by. Suddenly, the sprinkler showered him in spray.



13. Brrrr! Edward was so hot that the water felt really icy! But he could not move until the signal changed. Edward could hardly wait. He stood there getting wetter and wetter.

14. At last, Edward puffed on his way. The sun quickly warmed him up. "No more complaining," he said. "I've had all the water I want. That shower was too cold for comfort!"

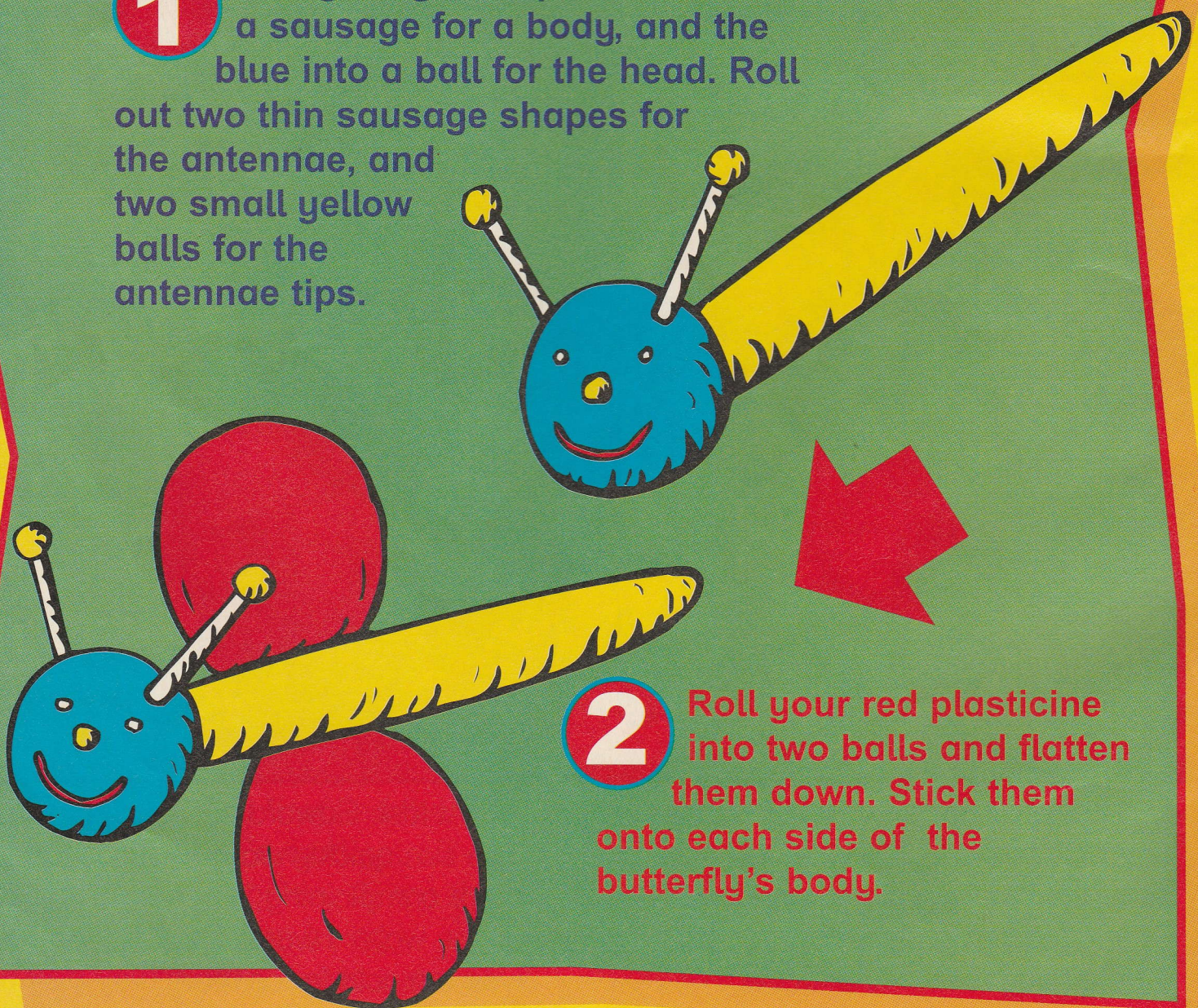
PEEP! PEEP! THE END!

Plasticine Playtime!

With Stephen and Bridget.

Using this issue's free plasticine, you can make all sorts of colourful animals. Here's an idea for you to copy!

1 Roll your yellow plasticine into a sausage for a body, and the blue into a ball for the head. Roll out two thin sausage shapes for the antennae, and two small yellow balls for the antennae tips.



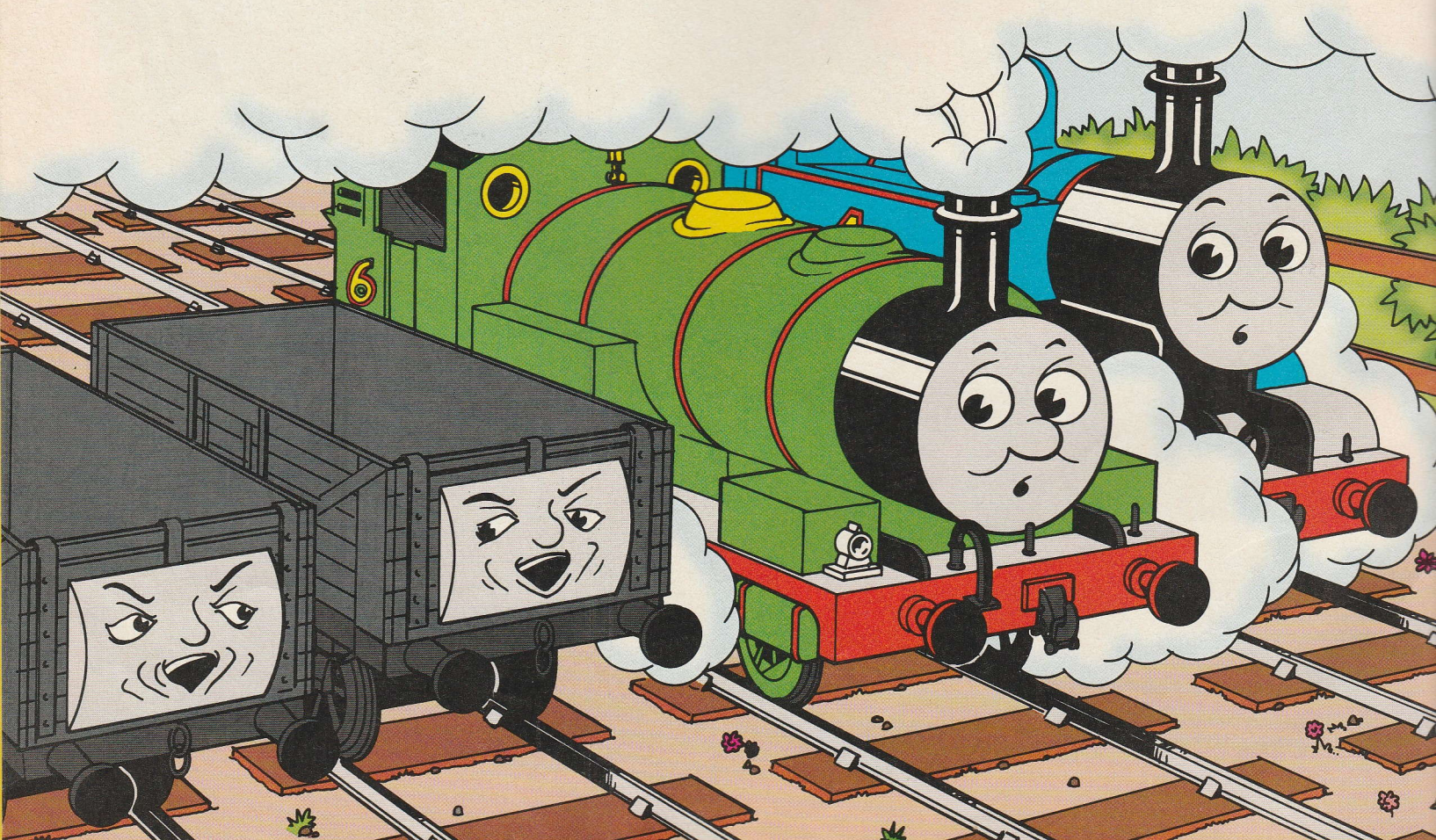
2 Roll your red plasticine into two balls and flatten them down. Stick them onto each side of the butterfly's body.

3 Now do the same with your blue plasticine. Stick it onto each side of the butterfly to finish the wings.
4 Make your butterfly bright and colourful by using the leftover plasticine. This one is decorated with spots!

Points!

A rumour was going round the Main Station. As usual, Diesel was at the centre of it! "Have you heard the latest?" he gossiped to the worried engines in their shed at night. "I overheard the Fat Controller talking. We're all going to be given points from now on!" "Oh dear," grumbled the trucks. "I suppose whoever does the worst work will get the lowest points!" "And whoever gets the lowest points will be scrapped!" guessed Diesel. You can just imagine the groans of dismay all round.

For the next few days the engines were all working as hard as they could to impress the Fat Controller. Percy was trying very hard not to be cheeky, He was so worried that he might say something that would get him into trouble, he decided not to speak at all! Percy's driver decided there must be something wrong with



him, so he asked the Fat Controller if little Percy could have a thorough service and clean at the Works.

Thomas wanted to prove how Really Useful he was. Every time the Fat Controller needed an engine to do some extra work, Thomas offered to help. Before long, Thomas was so tired he could hardly keep his eyes open!

Even the trucks were trying to be efficient and polite, which was very hard for them!

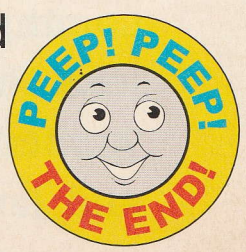
One morning, Henry was in such a hurry to arrive on time at all his stops that some of the passengers complained. The Fat Controller had a quiet word with him."Come now, Henry," he said. "What's all this rush, rush, rush?" "I don't want to be given low points!" gasped Henry. "Please don't send me for scrap!"

It was then that the Fat Controller found out all about the new points system. He sighed, and spoke kindly to Henry. "So that explains why everyone has been acting so strangely this week!" he smiled. "There isn't a new points system - I'm simply having some new points put in at the Main Station! Points are very important because they control which track the engines change onto!"

The engines were all very relieved when Henry gave them the good news about the points system.

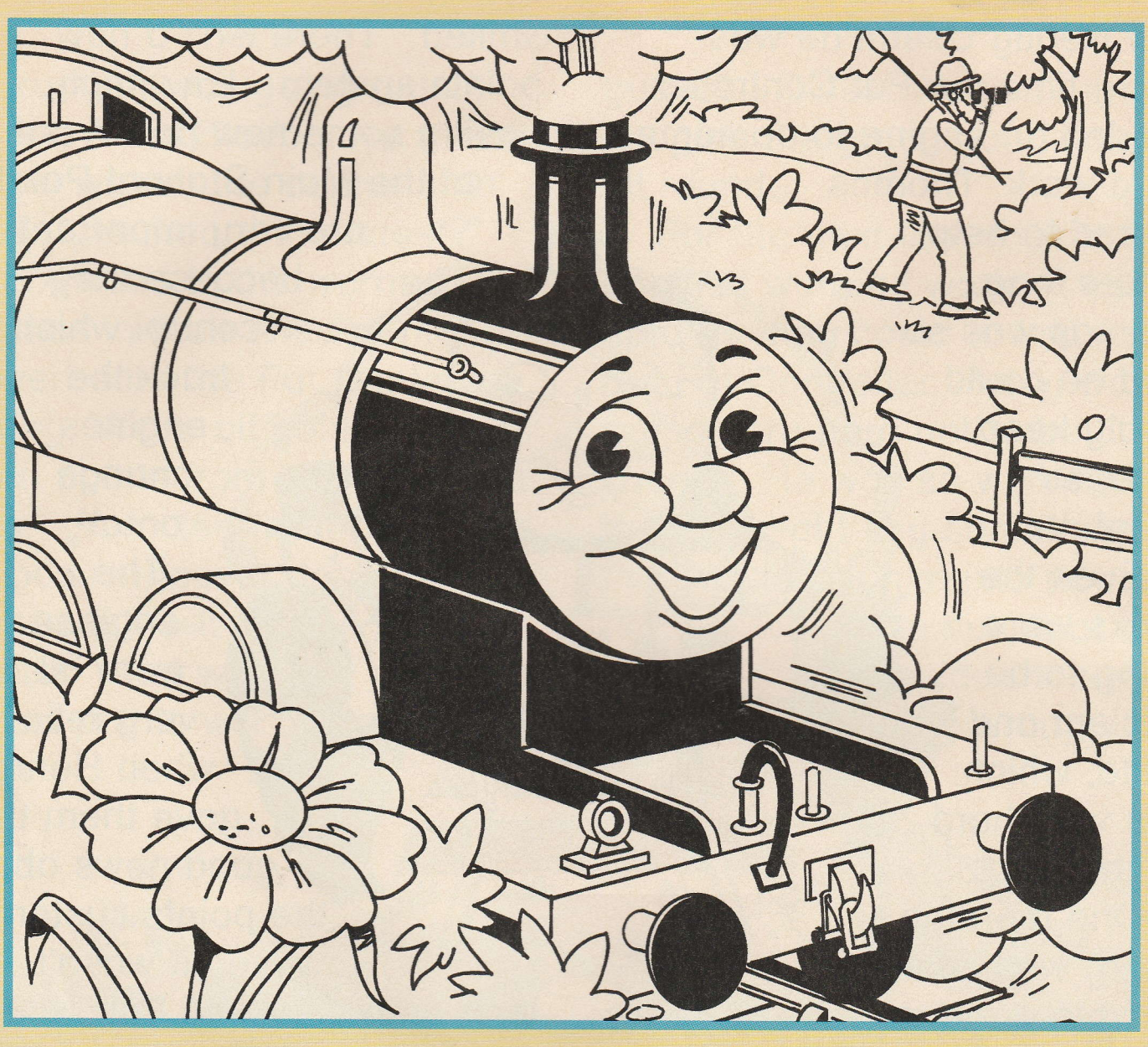
However, it wasn't long before the the Fat Controller arrived at the Main Station Yard to talk to all the engines. "You engines were all so well behaved when you thought I was going to give you marks, that I might start giving you points after all!" he said.

But then he winked at Henry...so we know he was only joking, don't we!

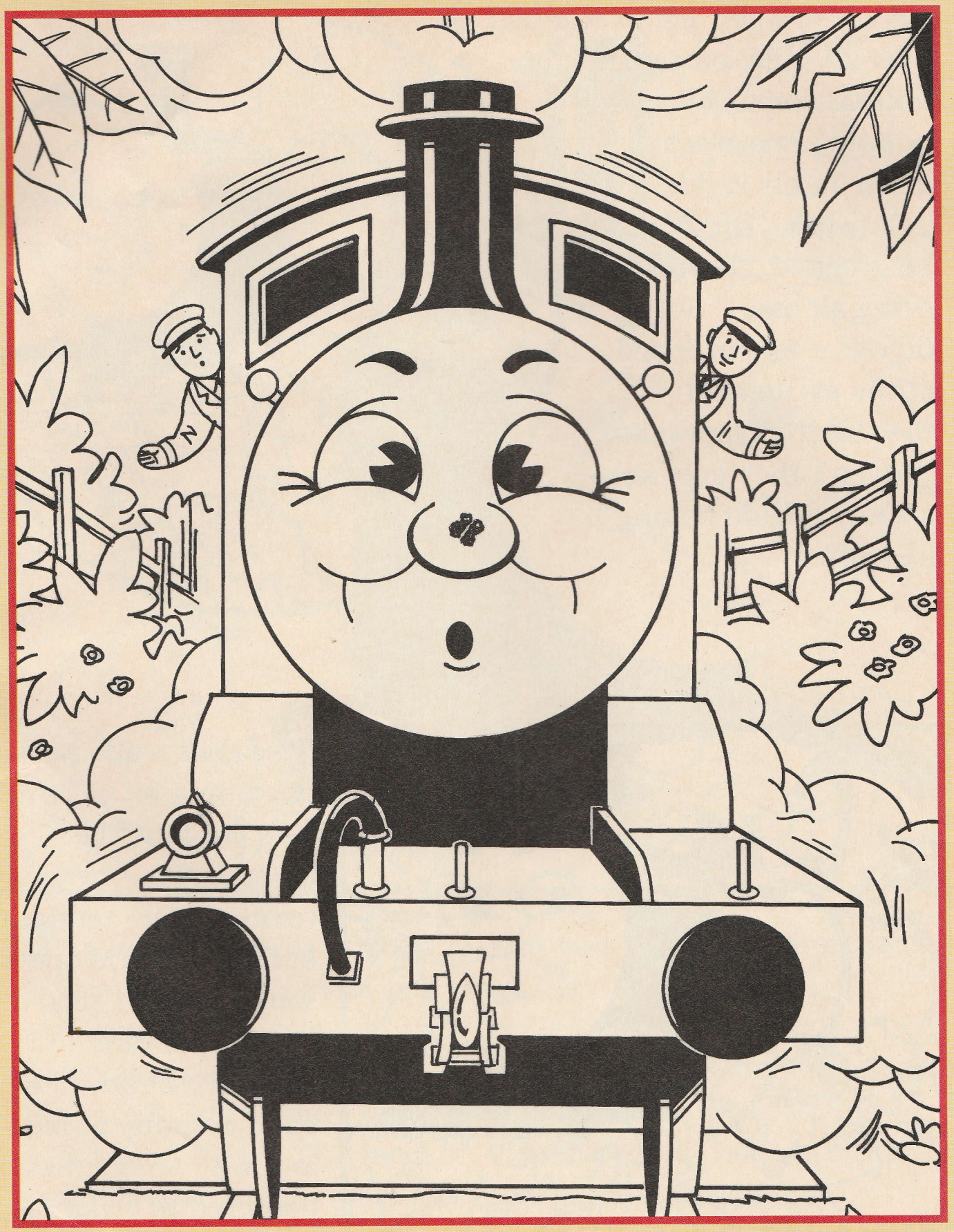


A read & colour story

The Butterfly!

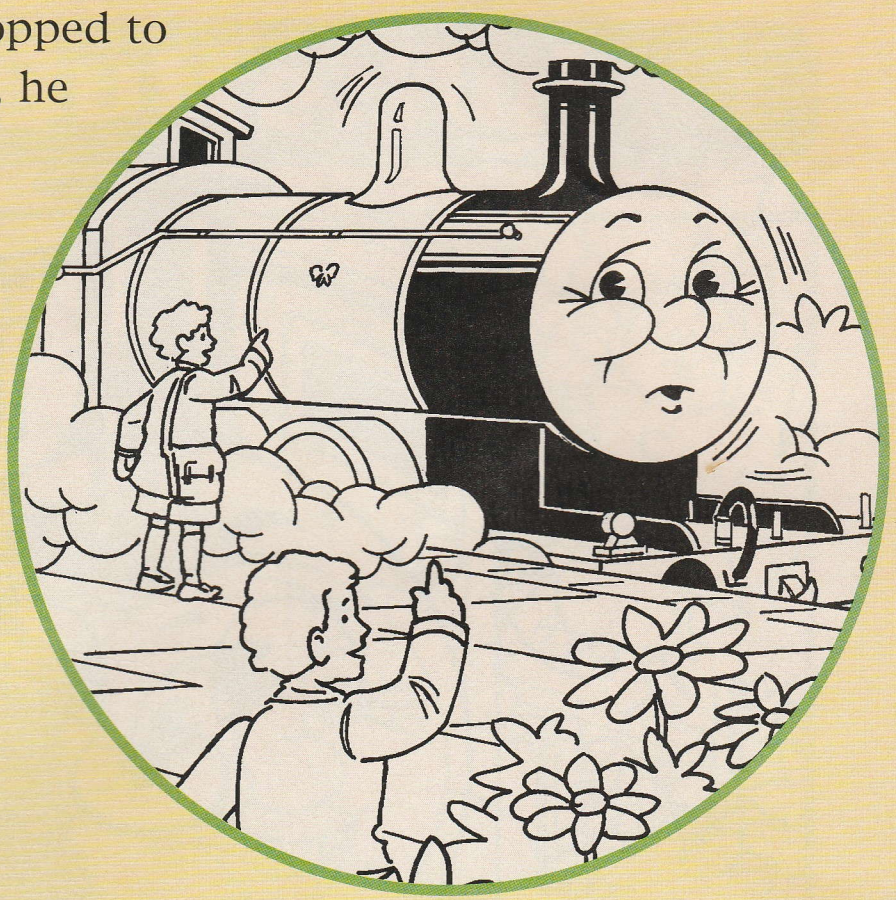


1 James was very excited as he puffed through the meadows. A very rare butterfly had been spotted on the Island of Sodor, and people were coming from far and wide to look for it. All the engines wanted to be the first to see it, and James had a feeling that if he kept his eyes open he would be the lucky one. His sunny meadows were always thick with butterflies! Once, he saw a lovely patch of colour on a brambly hedge, and was sure it was the butterfly, but it turned out to be a pretty wild flower among the leaves.



2 As James steamed around the countryside, he kept a watchful eye out for the butterfly. Suddenly, he noticed that there was a smudge of black soot on his nose. He felt awful, he was usually such a smart clean engine!

3 Later, when James stopped to pick up some passengers, he noticed some children pointing at a black mark on his lovely red paintwork. "Oh dear," he groaned. "I must be filthy all over!" But he was a bit surprised at the excitement the children showed. "Haven't they ever seen a sooty engine before?" he sniffed.

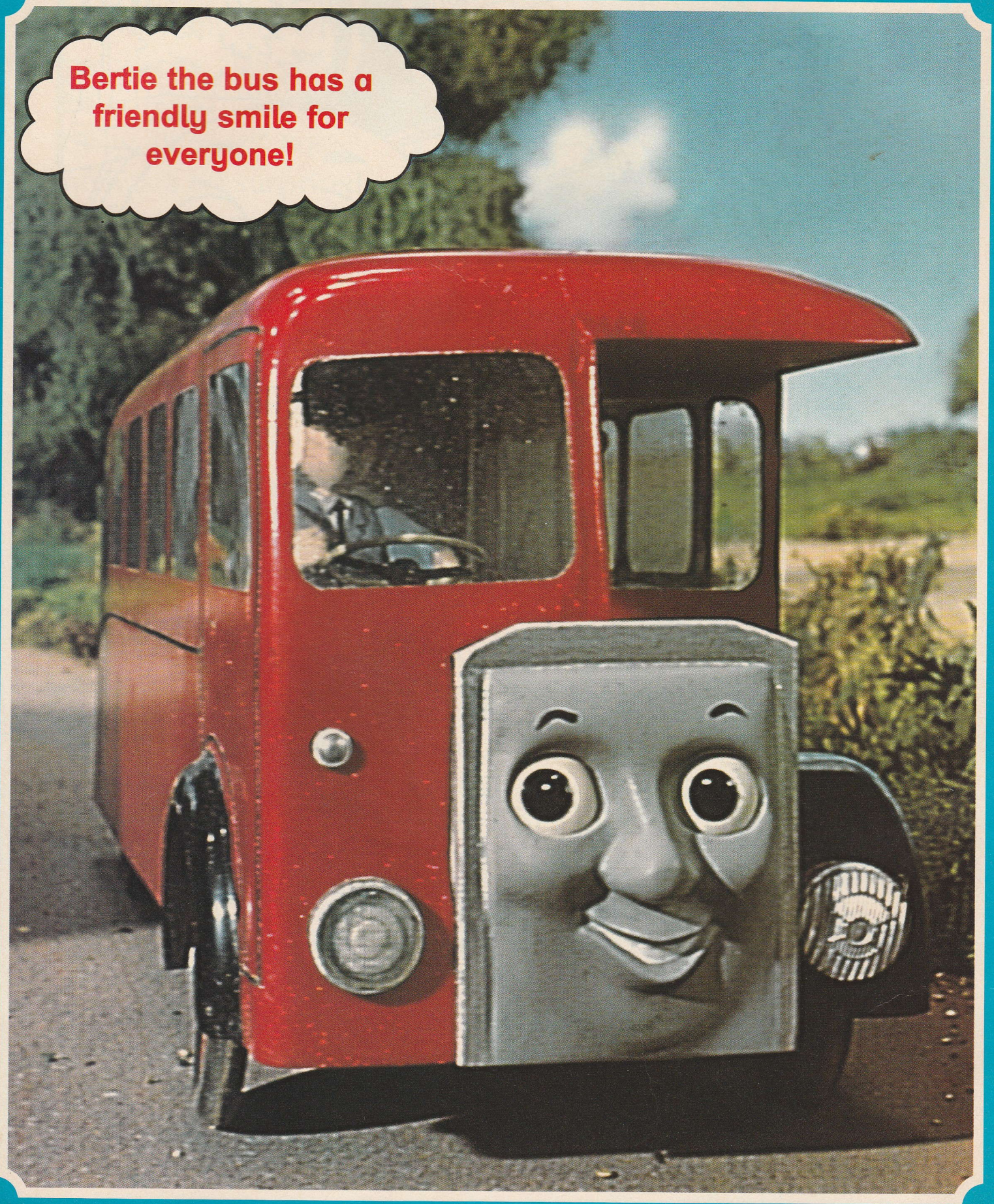


4 James made his way home in a bit of a huff. "It's not fair!" he moped. "I'm obviously covered from tender to buffer in horrid spots of soot, I haven't seen a sign of the rare butterfly, children have been pointing at me, and why no-one has bothered to clean me, I can't imagine!" On and on he moaned all the way back to the Main Station yard.

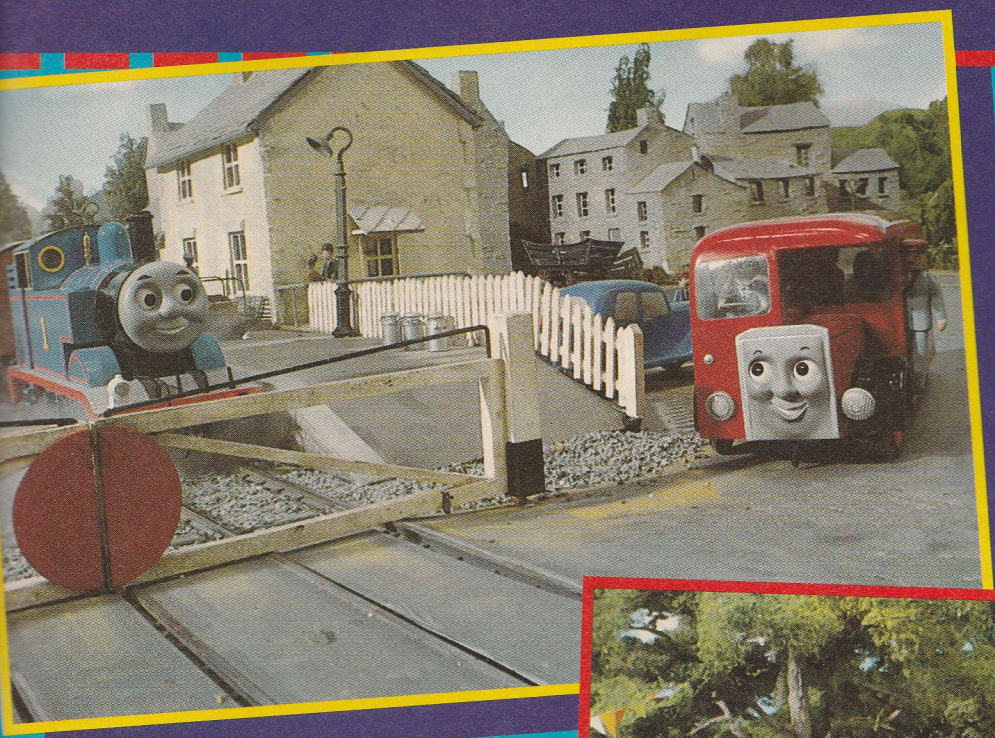
5 James was quietly sulking. He wanted to be cleaned! Just then, an old man came up and smiled at him. "Well," he said, "the rare butterfly does seem to like you!" "What do you mean?" asked James, "I haven't seen any sign of it!" The man laughed. "It's sitting on you right now!" he chuckled. Then he pointed at the black mark that had been annoying James all day. "There it is," he smiled. "You see, not all beautiful things are brightly coloured!" James was quite astonished! He went to sleep that night a very happy engine. He was delighted not to be sooty, and amazed to find that the butterfly had been under his nose all the time!

The end

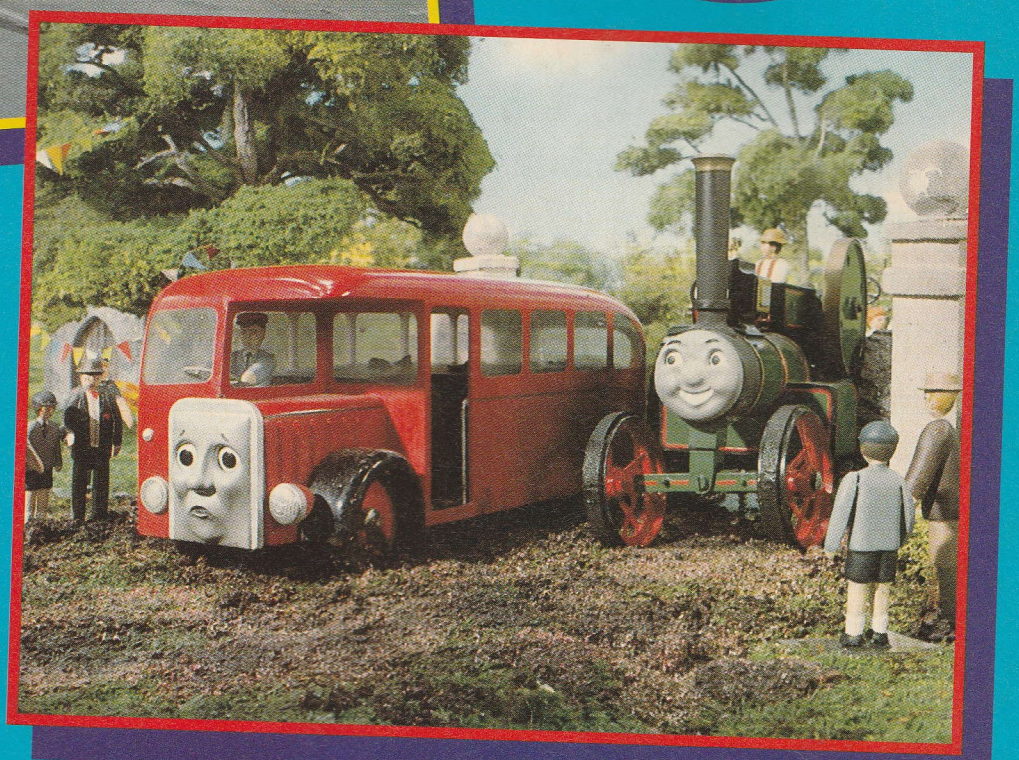
All abou



t Bertie!



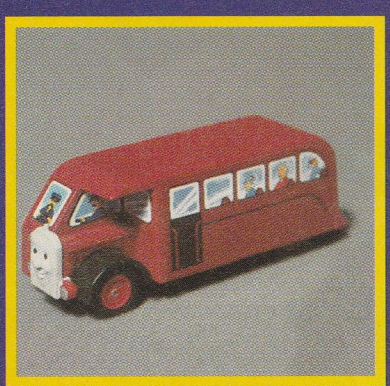
Ever since their great race, Bertie and Thomas have been firm friends.



Bertie likes to help the engines, but he knows that roads are as useful as rails.

Win a model Bertie!

Five lucky winners will win a splendid model Bertie from the ERTL engine range! Just send a post card, with your name, age and address to: Thomas/Bertie model competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ. Closing date: September 25th 1996. The first five names out of our postbag after the closing date will win their very own Bertie!

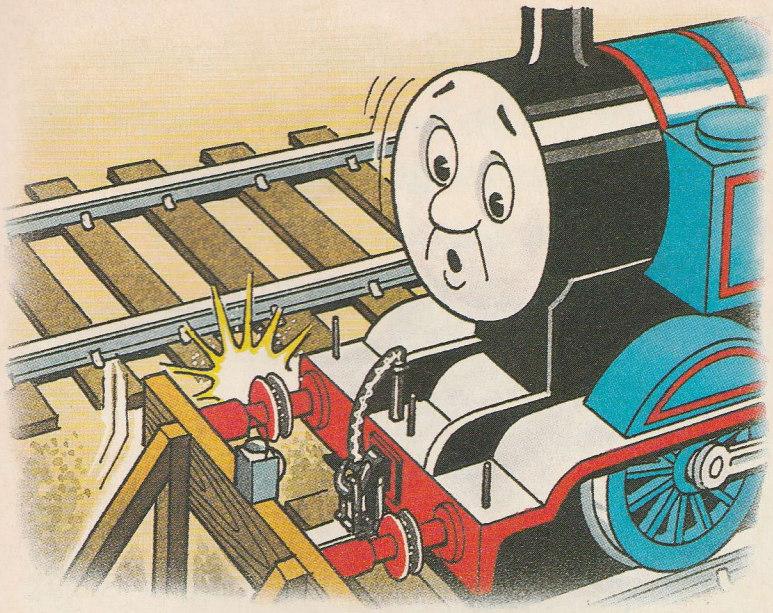


BUMP PROOF!

A magnificant old castle on the far side of the Island of Sodor had been opened to the public. Stephen and Bridget were very excited when Lady Hatt agreed to take them to see it. So they all went to the Main Station to catch Thomas' passenger train. "The castle was built hundreds of years ago," said Stephen, "in the days of knights in armour."

They waited on the platform with the Fat Controller while Thomas was uncoupled from some trucks he had been shunting in the yard. Then he rolled slowly onto another line to collect his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel.

Meanwhile, Gordon puffed grandly past with the Express coaches. He whistled loudly as he went. "Pheeeep! Make way!" he called importantly. "Listen to him!" puffed Thomas. "Anyone



would think Gordon's the only engine who's Really Useful around here!"

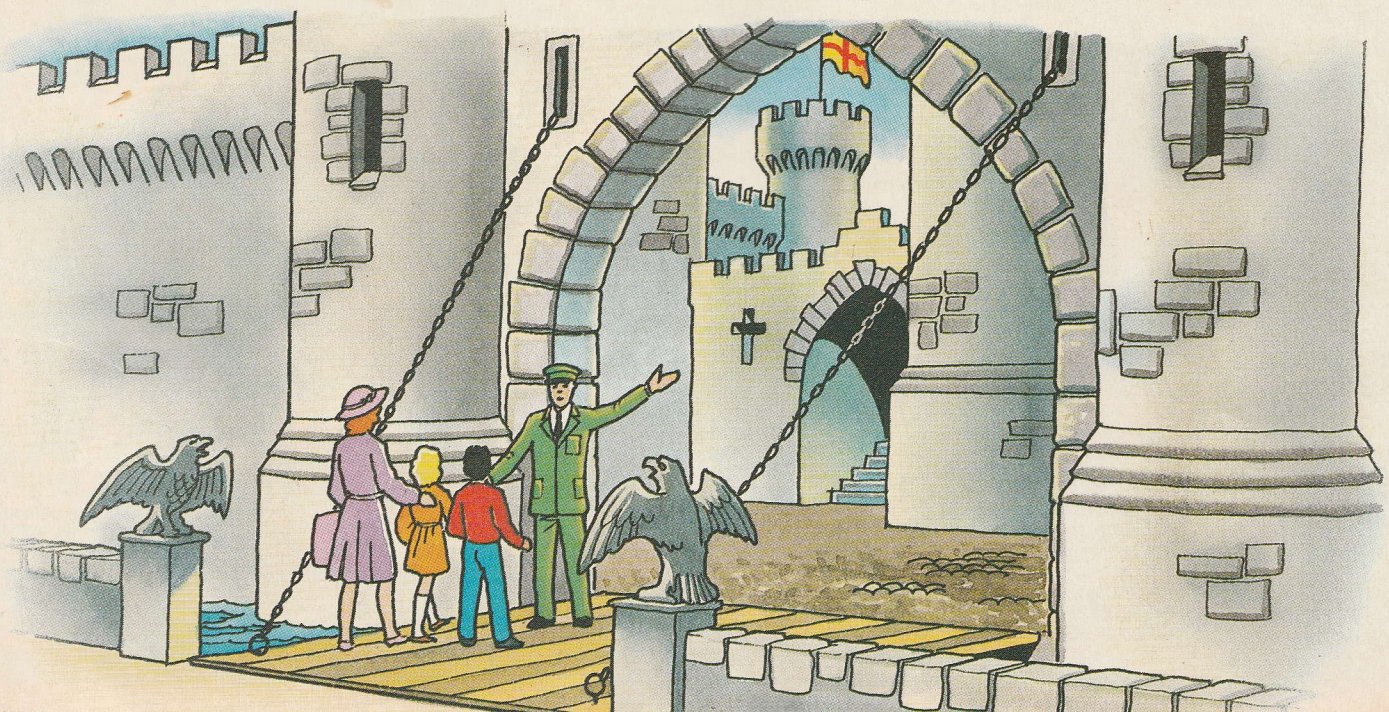
Thomas was busy watching Gordon instead of the buffers just ahead. He was only going very slowly but he bumped into them with a loud CLANG!

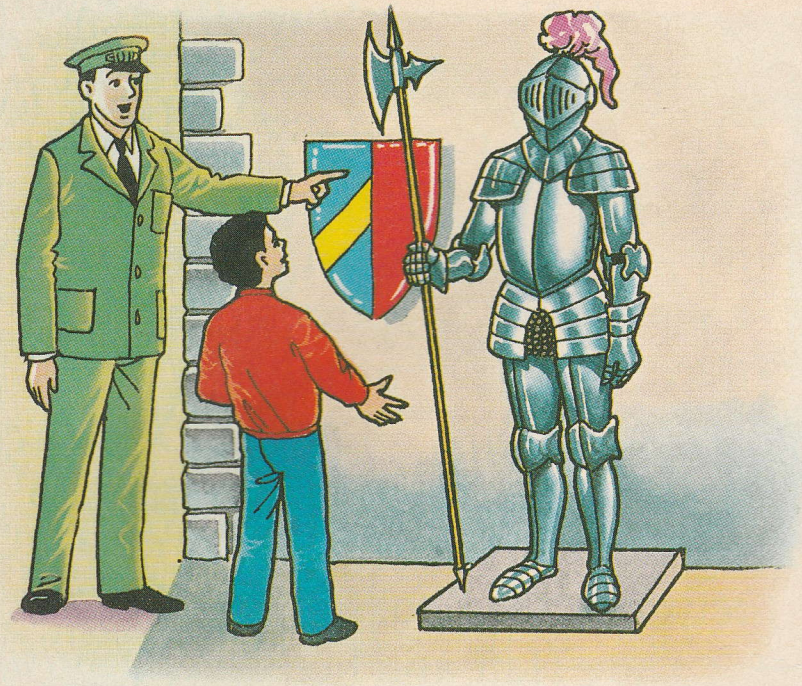
Thomas shuddered to a halt. Stephen and Bridget saw what had happened. They were worried. "Are you hurt, Thomas?" called the children. "He's fine," replied the driver. "It was only a little tap. Gordon may be bigger than Thomas, but engines are very strong because they're made of metal!"

Before long, Thomas and his passengers arrived at the station by the castle. Thomas was to return later to collect them.

Lady Hatt and her grandchildren joined a party of other visitors. Surrounding the castle was a wide, water-filled trench. "That's called a moat," said the guide.

He led everyone onto a drawbridge over the moat and through the huge main gate. The castle walls were very high. Inside, there was lots to see.





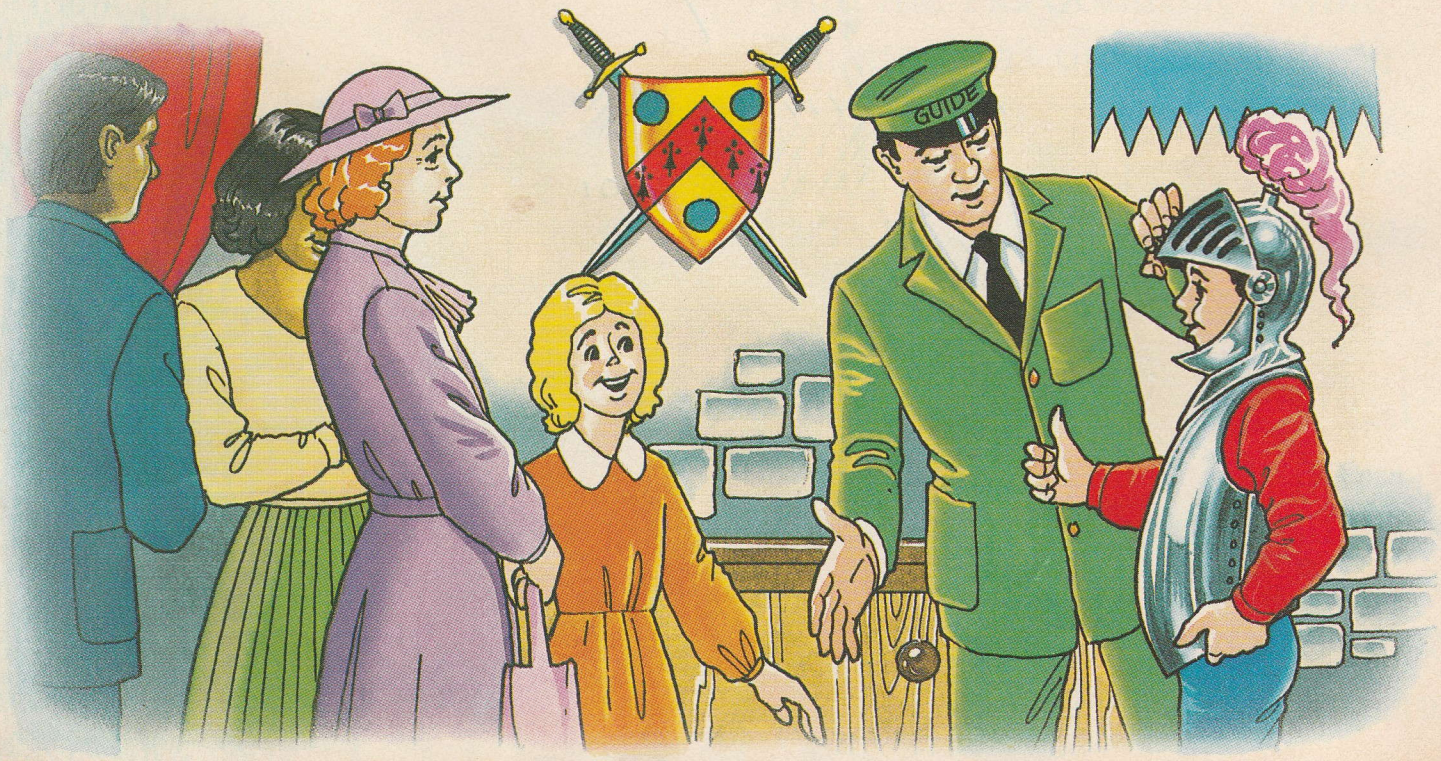
Soon, the guide showed them a shiny suit of armour. It had a helmet with a bright plume on top. "An olden day knight wore this," he told everyone. "I wish I could," said Stephen.

To his surprise, the guide let him put on some of the armour including the helmet. Part of it moved up and down to cover Stephen's face. "That's called the visor," the guide explained.

Stephen walked proudly along the corridor while everyone watched him.

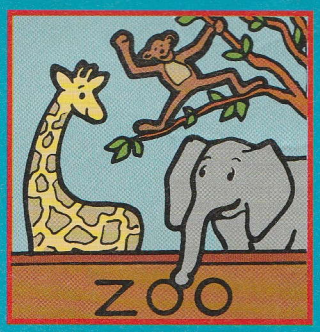
Suddenly, the visor slipped over his eyes so he could hardly see. The guide hurried to help but Stephen bumped into a door. CLANK! "Oh, dear! Are you all right?" asked Lady Hatt, anxiously. "Yes, thanks, grandma," smiled Stephen as the guide freed the helmet's visor. "Luckily, armour's very strong." "You're metal now, just like Thomas!" laughed Bridget.

THE END

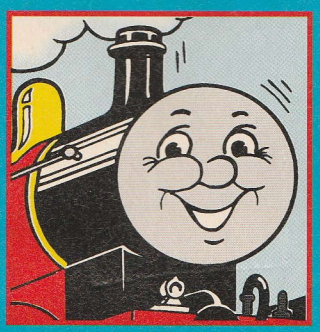


True or false!

You have just read about Stephen and Bridget's day out with Lady Hatt. Can you remember what happened? Answer the 5 questions below by putting a tick in the correct box.

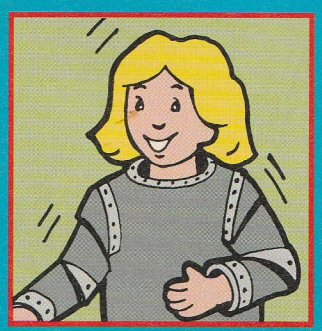


Lady Hatt took Stephen and Bridget to the Zoo.

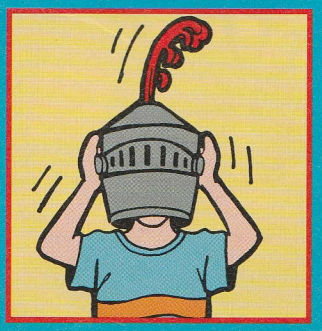


James took them to the station by the castle.

Thomas bumped into some buffers.



Bridget was allowed to wear some of the knight's armour.

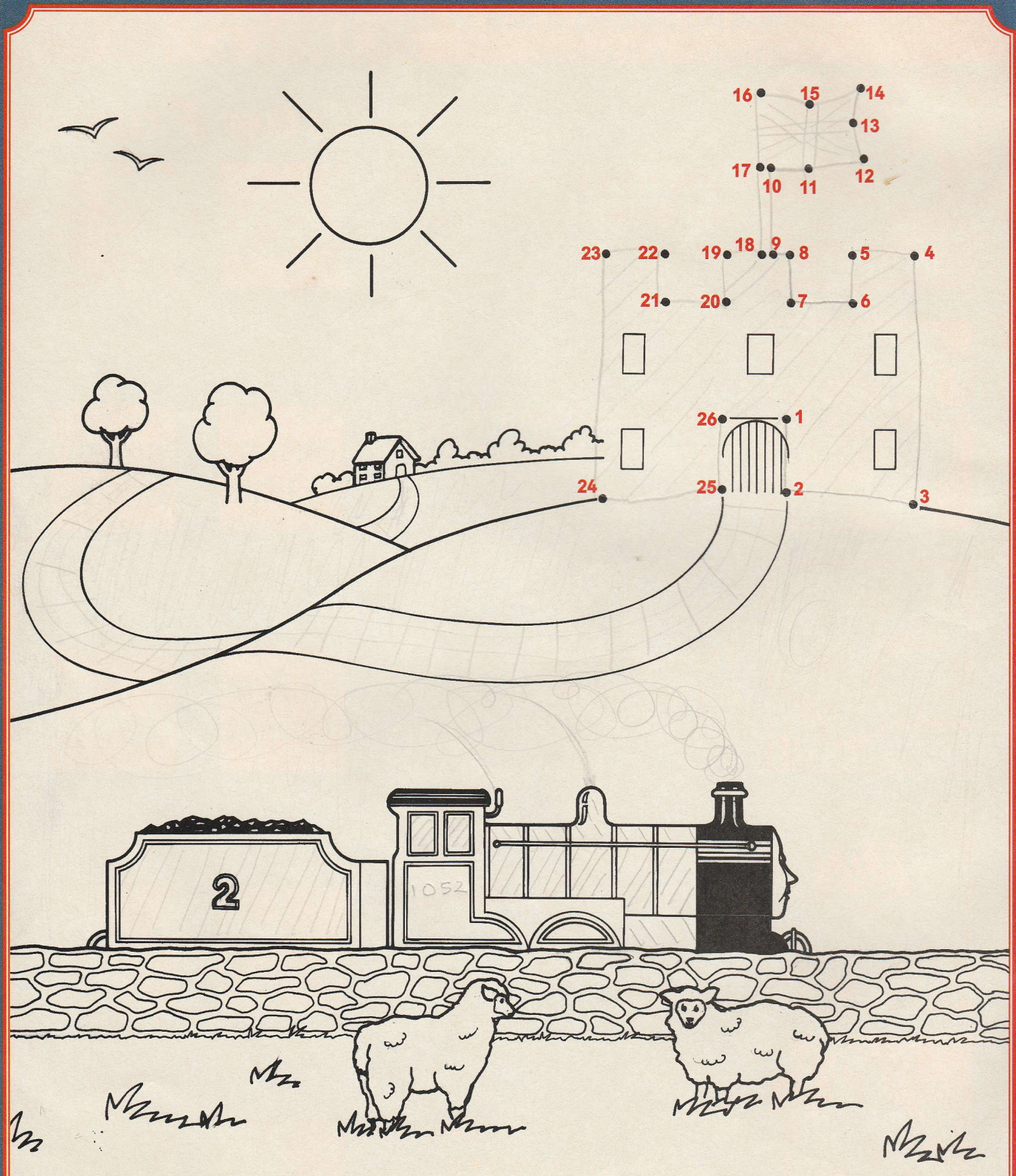


Stephen couldn't see through the knight's helmet.

	True	False
Lady Hatt took Stephen and Bridget to the Zoo.		
James took them to the station by the castle.		
Thomas bumped into some buffers.		
Bridget was allowed to wear some of the knight's armour.		
Stephen couldn't see through the knight's helmet.		

Dot to dot!

Join the dots to see what Edward is steaming past!



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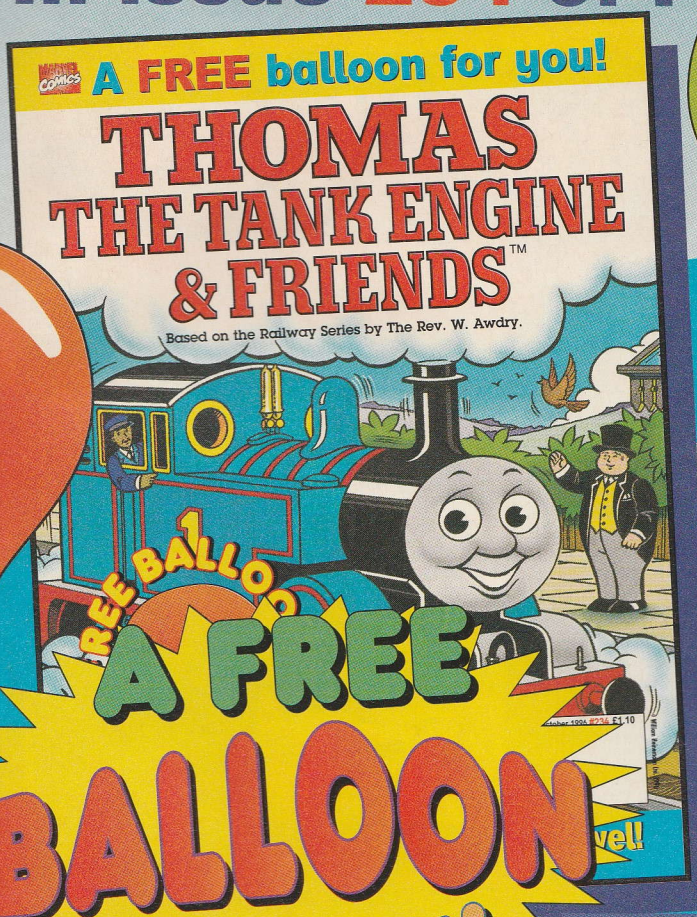
In issue 234 of . . .



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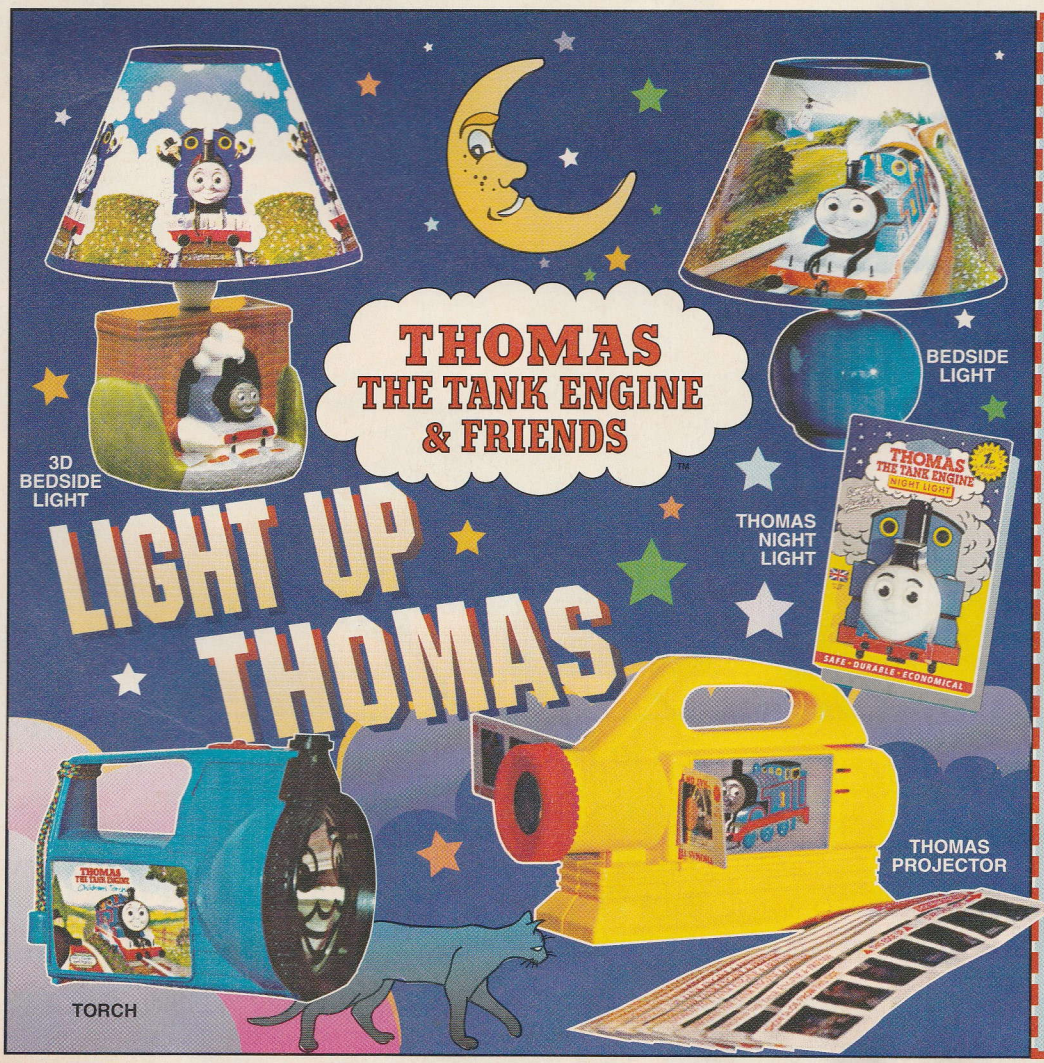

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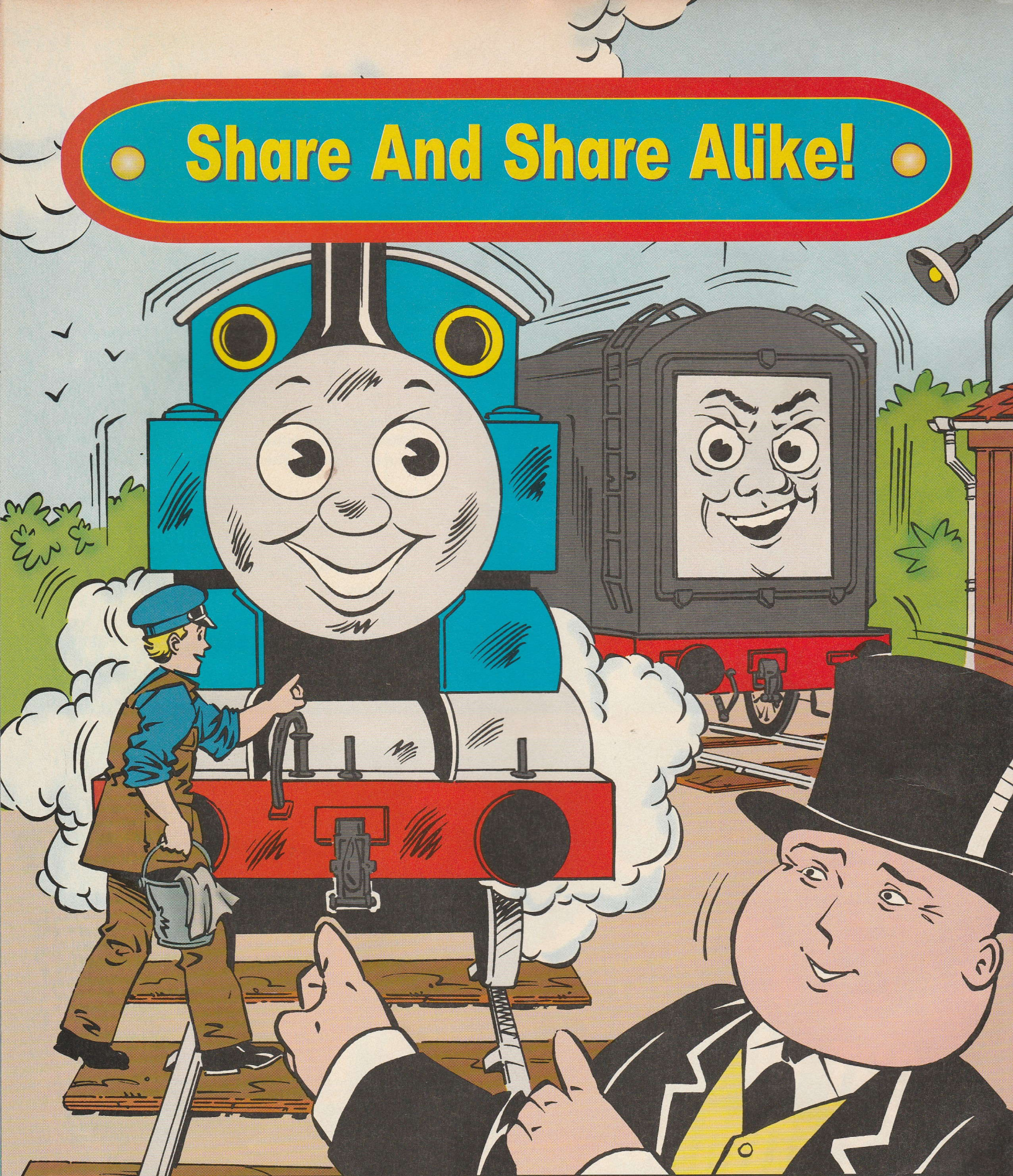
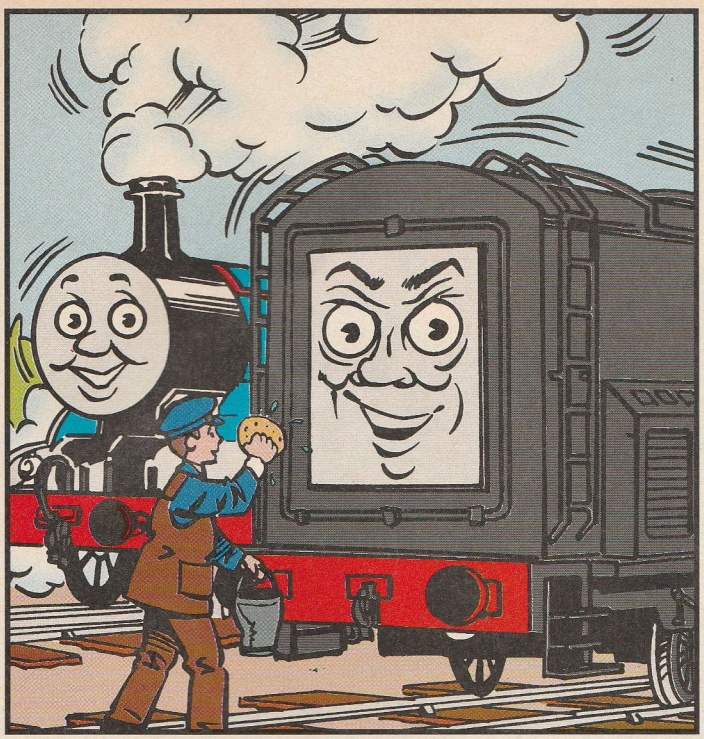


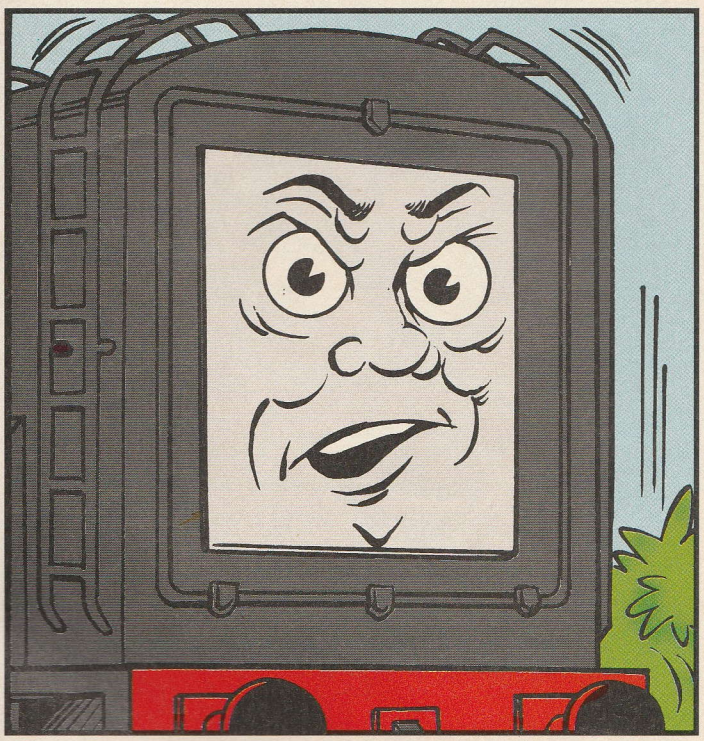
1. Poor Thomas was filthy! He had been helping out at the docks and was covered in coal dust after unloading a new cargo. "That's soon fixed," said the Fat Controller, kindly.

2. He had arranged a refreshing wash-down for the little engine. Thomas was delighted. It was then that Diesel pulled up. He didn't like to see Thomas getting special treatment!



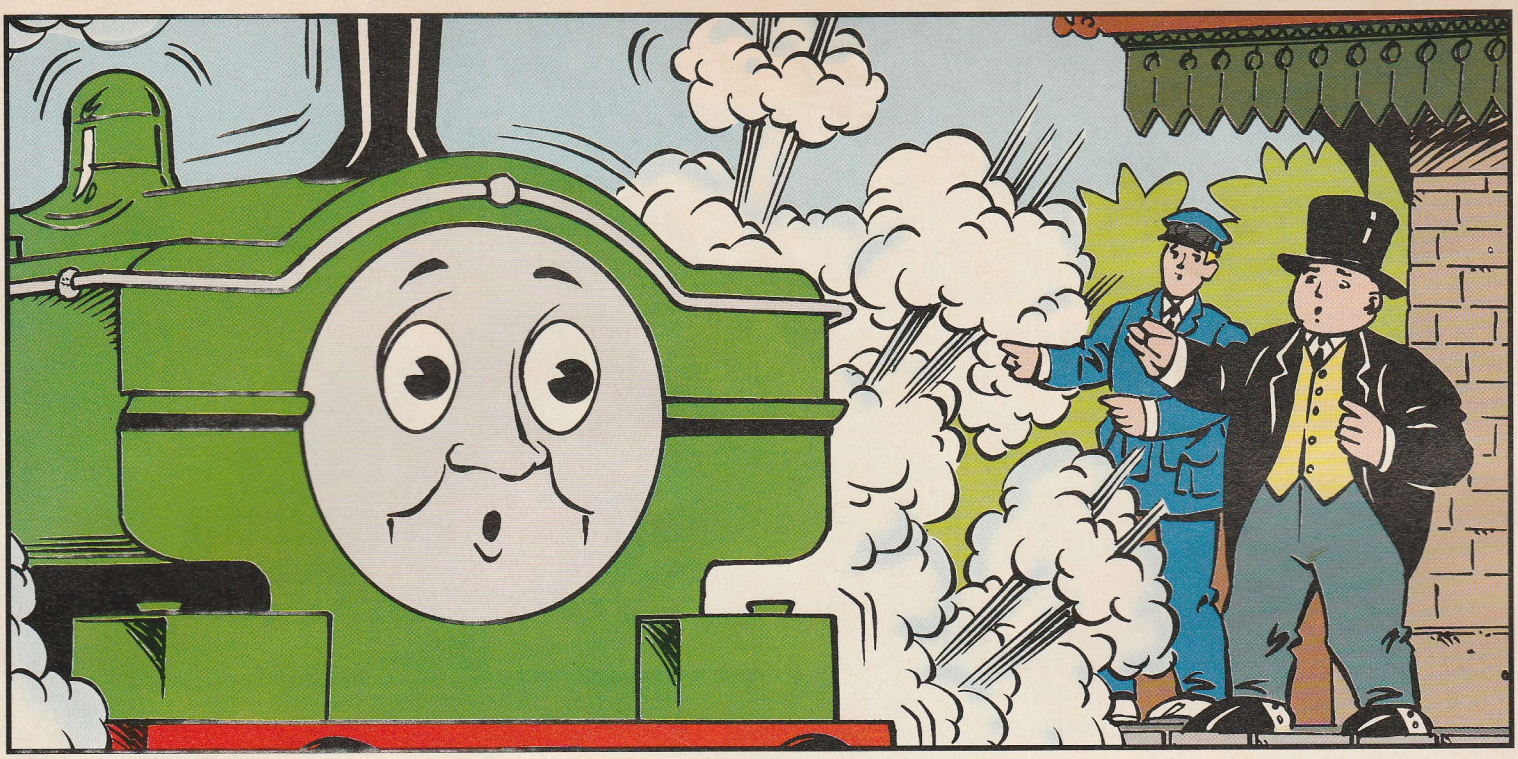
3. Although Diesel wasn't really dirty, he complained until he got a special wash-down too. "Share and share alike, Thomas!" he said. "You can't have all the fun!"

4. The next day, there was a surprise for Thomas. He was to be given some nice fresh paintwork. "Soon I'll look as good as new," he smiled happily.



5. Diesel pulled up just as the painter was about to begin. Diesel soon spotted the new paint and he started to grumble that his paintwork deserved a new coat too.

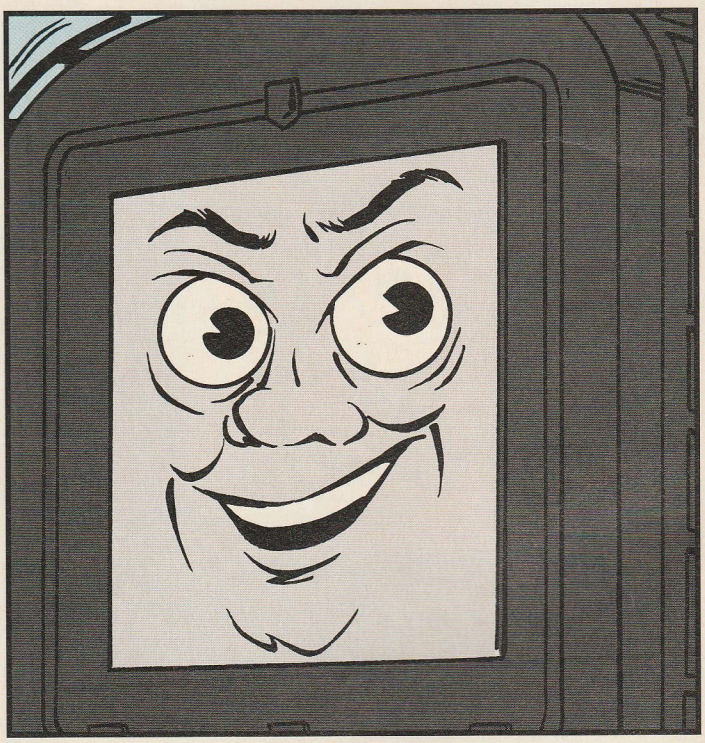
6. "Share and share alike," smirked Diesel. So Thomas had to wait, as the Fat Controller finally gave in and let Diesel have some new paintwork which he didn't really need.



7. The next day there was an emergency at the station. Duck broke down in the middle of an important job. He came to a halt in a great gush of steam.

8. There were urgent deliveries to make and the Fat Controller needed a Really Useful Engine to come to the rescue. "Thomas is just the train to do all of this work," he said.

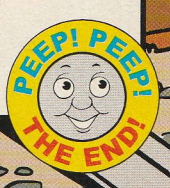
9. Diesel pulled into the station wondering what the fuss was about. He arrived just in time to hear the Fat Controller say, "I think we should give it all to Thomas!"

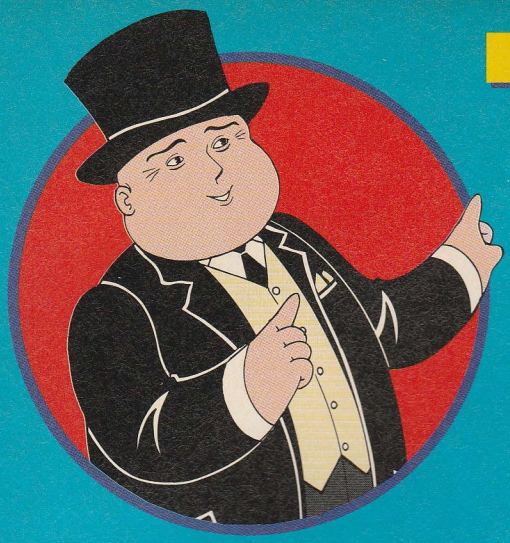


10. Diesel thought he was being left out of something. As usual, he began to maoan. "It's not fair, Sir!" he protested. "Thomas shouldn't have all of it. Let me have half!"

11. The Fat Controller was astonished. "I'm not sure," he began, remembering that Diesel had already worked hard that day. "I am, sir!" said Diesel boldly. "I really ought to have my share." The Fat Controller smiled. His engines were always full of surprises. "What a kind engine you are, Diesel!" he said. "You can certainly have half of Thomas' work!"

12. Diesel couldn't believe his ears. He thought he was getting another treat, not a lot of truck-pulling. But now there was simply no way of getting out of it! He sighed glumly as he and Thomas set off with their heavy loads. "Share and share alike, Diesel," said Thomas laughing. "And thank you ever so much!"





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Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Mail Train, Thomas, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5UJ.

Star Letter

Dear Fat Controller,
Who is Thomas' best friend?
From Barbara Profit, aged 4.

Thomas gets on well with all the other engines. He is great friends with Bertie and fond of his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel. I think he has a soft spot for little Percy too!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win a Thomas remote control model!

The Fat Controller and James look super in this picture by Liam Garrahan aged 5

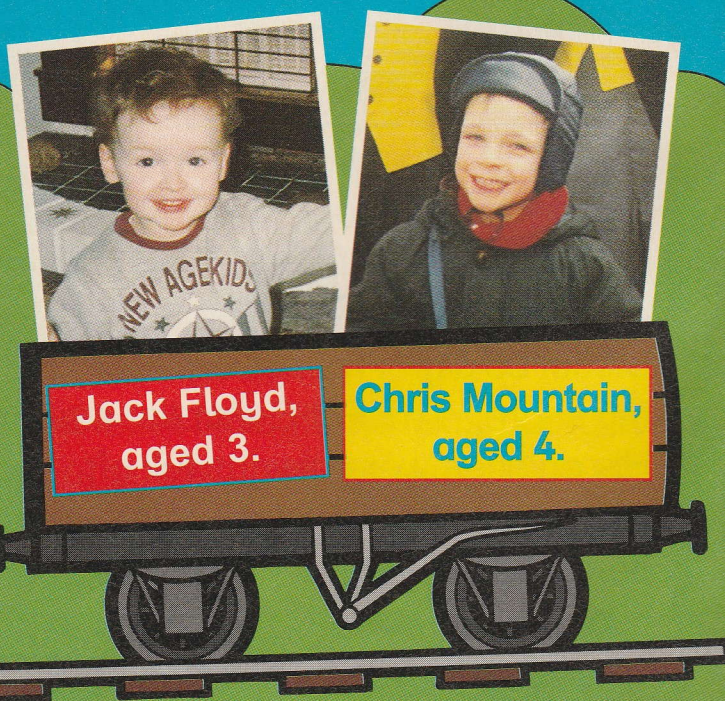
Prize Poem!

Thank you, Alex O'Brien, aged 7, for this excellent little rhyme!

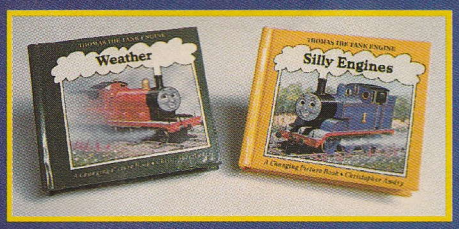
**Oliver and Toad were to be scrapped,
But Douglas saved them fast,
Now Oliver looks all smart and new,
As he goes chuffing past!**

Happy Birthday

To...Matthew Hyman, age 3
Henry Fensome,
age 5 Melissa Nowak, age 3
Louise Marson, age 3 Justin
Ashden, age 7
Martin Dodd, aged 6



ail train!



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special **Thomas Changing Picture Book.**

Steep hills don't seem to be a problem for cheerful Mavis! By Matthew Potts aged 5.

Jordan Wright aged 4 has drawn a happy looking Thomas puffing along.

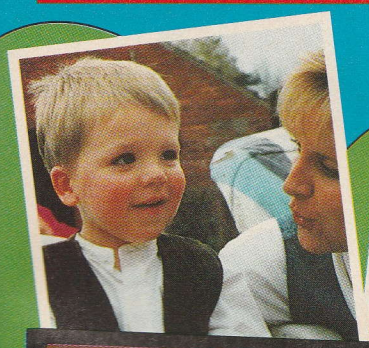
Percy's Jokes

Have you got a favourite joke or funny story? Why not send it to Percy!

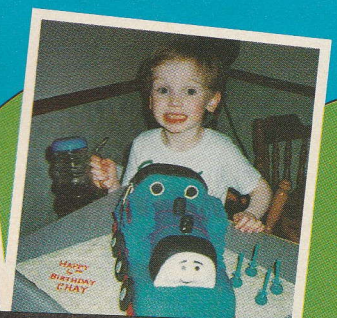
When's the best time to buy a budgy?
When it's going cheep!
Steven Parker, aged 4.

Where do cows go on Saturday nights?
The moovies!
Jen Banks, aged 6.

What do you call a train loaded with toffee?
A chew-chew!
Dan Rachel, aged 5.



George Greaves, aged 3.



Chay Cumming, aged 4.

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Competition time!

Transform your bedroom with this fantastic Thomas bedset! The lucky winner will receive a Thomas duvet cover, pillowcase and matching curtains!

To win this dreamy prize, tell us who is your favourite engine and why? 10 runners-up will be sent a splendid Thomas badge!

Put your answer on a post card, including your name and address, and send it to; Thomas/Bedset Competition, Marvel Comics, Panini House, Coach and Horses Passage, The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5UJ. All entries must be received by 25th September 1996.

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of participating companies. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.

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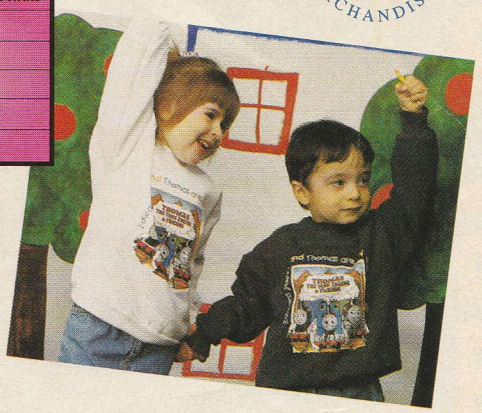

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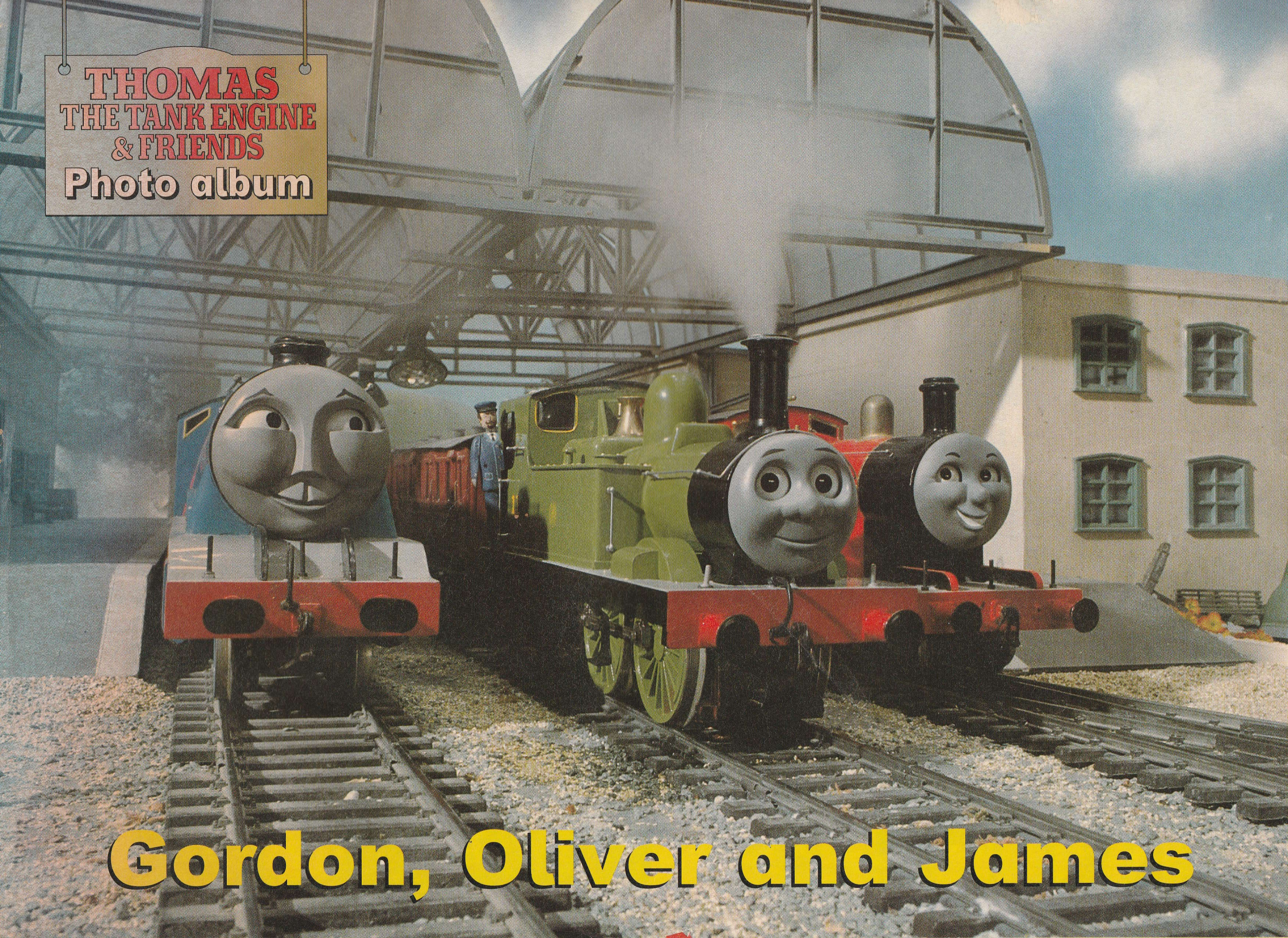
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